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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,616	09/23/2003	Robert Paul Lowmaster	1033-SS00412	1504
60533 7590 07/31/2007 TOLER SCHAFFER, LLP 8500 BLUFFSTONE COVE SUITE A201 AUSTIN, TX 78759			EXAMINER CHO, HONG SOL	
			ART UNIT 2616	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/31/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

TH

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/668,616	LOWMASTER, ROBERT PAUL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hong Cho	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the RCE filed on 06/06/2007. Claims 1-32 are cancelled. Claims 33-57 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 33, 34, 39-44, 46 and 51-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander et al (US 6798767), hereinafter referred to as Alexander, in view of Brody et al (US 6278697), hereinafter referred to as Brody.

Re claims 33, 39, 42, 51 and 57, Alexander discloses a communication network including a plurality of LANs interconnected with a WAN. Alexander discloses IP telephony devices having a unique IP address (*a unique address*) and the capability of encapsulating a user's voice packets into IP packets (*call receipt rule of the device*) so that the voice can be transmitted over LAN, WAN or Internet (*connection information comprising a unique address and a call receipt rule of the device*, column 4, lines 1-5).

Alexander discloses a call manager controlling and maintaining databases for IP telephony devices on LANs, which are IP networks (*a median server storing a first collection of connection information for a first plurality of devices associated with a first managed IP network and a second collection of connection information for a second plurality of devices associated with a second managed IP network*, column 4, lines 26-37; column 8, line 47 to column 9, line 20). A call manager control IP telephony devices on the first managed IP network and the second managed IP network (column 4, lines 26-37). Alexander discloses querying and determining the number of a called device from the list by utilizing mapping table or database with device names and IP addresses of telephony devices on IP networks (*receiving a query from a device of the second managed internet protocol network, the query seeking appropriate connection information for a called device associated with the first managed IP network and sending the appropriate connection information to the device associated with the second managed IP network*, column 10, lines 38-42; lines 48-56). Alexander discloses a network interface receiving data from and transmits data to IP network (*a network interface engine communicatively coupled to the median server to receive a query seeking appropriate connection information for a called device*, column 6, lines 56-59).

Alexander discloses routing the call in accordance with the set of connection information in response to receiving the set of connection information from the mediation server (column 5, lines 1-5), but fails to explicitly disclose the second set of call receipt rule relating to a second format of IP data that is acceptable to the second plurality of devices.

Brody discloses converting the first protocol message into the second protocol message

(column 7, lines 44-50). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Alexander by adding to it the feature of protocol conversion so that other types of second network such as voice over Frame Relay would be serviced.

Re claim 34, Alexander discloses a gateway sending signaling information to connect call to a device (*the median server does not provide call signaling to the first plurality of devices*, column 11, lines 38-41).

Re claim 38, Alexander discloses a first call receipt rule selected from the group consisting of an IP header rule (*each packet has the same destination IP address*, column 4, lines 55-56), a real time transport rule (*the encapsulation is performed by RTP running over UDP*, column 5, lines 6-7), an allowable sample size (*TCP layer divides the data to be transmitted into one or more packets*, column 4, lines 51-54), a network access rule (*transmitting LAN or WAN in necessary*, column 4, lines 49-50), and a supported coding protocol rule (*a codec converts the signals*, column 4, lines 63-66).

Re claims 40 and 41, Alexander discloses presenting a calling party with call options comprising a VOIP call option (*making a call to IP telephony device*, column 6, lines 1-2) and a circuit switched call option (*making a call to a PSTN telephony device*, column 5, lines 52-53), receiving the set of connection information from the mediation server (column 10, lines 38-42) and routing the call in accordance with the set of connection information in response to receiving the set of connection information from the mediation server (column 5, lines 1-5).

Re claims 43 and 44, Alexander discloses controlling IP telephony devices on the first managed IP network and the second managed IP network (*a network interface engine communicating with the first and second managed IP network via first and second private networks*, column 4, lines 26-37) and determining if the called device is associated with the first managed IP network or the second managed IP network (*a retrieval engine collecting the appropriate connection information from the first collection of connection information and the second collection of connection information*, column 4, lines 32-36).

Re claim 46, Alexander discloses linking an IP address of a telephone device on the first IP network and an IP address of a telephone device on the second IP network (column 9, lines 21-30).

Re claim 52, Alexander discloses determining if a device is connected to an IP network and routing a call to a gateway for circuit-switched network when non-IP telephony devices are called (*sending a query to the information store to identify connection information related to a device associated with a third managed IP network and receiving an indication that the connection information is unavailable*, column 5, lines 34-37; column 9, lines 42-50; lines 63-67; column 11, lines 17-21).

Re claim 53, Alexander discloses routing a call to a gateway via PBX (*route IP data associated with a call to the device associated with the third managed IP network via a media gateway accessible to a circuit switched network*, column 5, lines 52-53),

Re claims 54-56, Alexander discloses controlling IP telephony devices on the first managed IP network and the second managed IP network (column 4, lines 26-37)

Claims 35-37, 45 and 47-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Brody and further in view of Donley et al (USPUB 20040180646), hereinafter referred to as Donley.

Re claims 35-37 and 45, Alexander discloses allowing a system administrator to access and edit the alternate number list (column 12, lines 55-58). Alexander fails to disclose receiving credentials from a party making the request and zoning the information store such that allowing the party access to the first collection of connection information does not automatically allow the party access to the second collection of connection information. Donley discloses getting credentials from the subscriber (paragraph [0038]). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Alexander to include certification and authentication server of Donley so that only an authorized user can edit the connection information which can be separated into a set of information. The motivation is to achieve increased levels of network security by the process of verifying the identity of a user's eligibility to access and edit the connection information.

Re claims 47-50, Alexander discloses allowing a system administrator to access and edit the alternate number list (*the access to the information store includes editing the first connection information*, column 12, lines 55-58), but fails to disclose comparing a set of credentials received from a management console coupled to the information store having the maintained set of credentials. Donley discloses verifying the received credentials are identical to the stored credentials (paragraph [0043], lines 1-5). It would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Alexander to include certification and authentication server of Donley so that only an authorized user can edit the connection information which can be separated into a set of information. The motivation is to achieve increased levels of network security by the process of verifying the identity of a user's eligibility to access and edit the connection information.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 33-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hong Cho whose telephone number is 571-272-3087. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri during 7 am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3088.

Art Unit: 2616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

hc
Hong Cho
Patent Examiner
7/25/2007